



# the WATER RESOURCES REFORM & DEVELOPMENT ACT

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## STRENGTHENS OVERSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Traditionally, Water Resources Development Acts authorized studies, modifications, and other specific projects that had not been recommended by the U. S. Army Corps Chief of Engineers, through a process driven by requests from Members of Congress. Under the current rules of the House of Representatives, authorization activities are no longer executed in this manner.*

*The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 2013 is one of the most policy and reform focused measures of its kind in the last two decades. The importance of identifying, prioritizing, and authorizing vital future water resources infrastructure activities remains, and WRRDA provides a path forward by increasing transparency, accountability, and Congressional oversight without ceding Constitutional Congressional responsibility to the executive branch.*

### **WRRDA contains no earmarks and establishes a new, transparent process to review and prioritize water resources development activities with strong Congressional oversight**

- WRRDA requires the Corps of Engineers to annually publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting proposals from non-federal interests regarding water resources development needs.
- The Corps of Engineers will review proposed submissions for inclusion in an annual “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” according to statutorily established criteria.
- Upon completion of their review, the Corps of Engineers will submit to Congress and make publically available the annual report of those activities that meet the criteria established by Congress.
- Detailed information on each proposal will be included in the report, including a description of the potential benefits; the name of the associated non-federal interest(s), a letter or statement of support from each associated non-federal interest, the purpose of the proposal, and an estimate of the federal, non-federal, and total costs.
- Congress will use the information provided in the Corps’ “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” to determine authorization priorities in future water resources development legislation, and only those proposals included in the report will be eligible for authorization.

